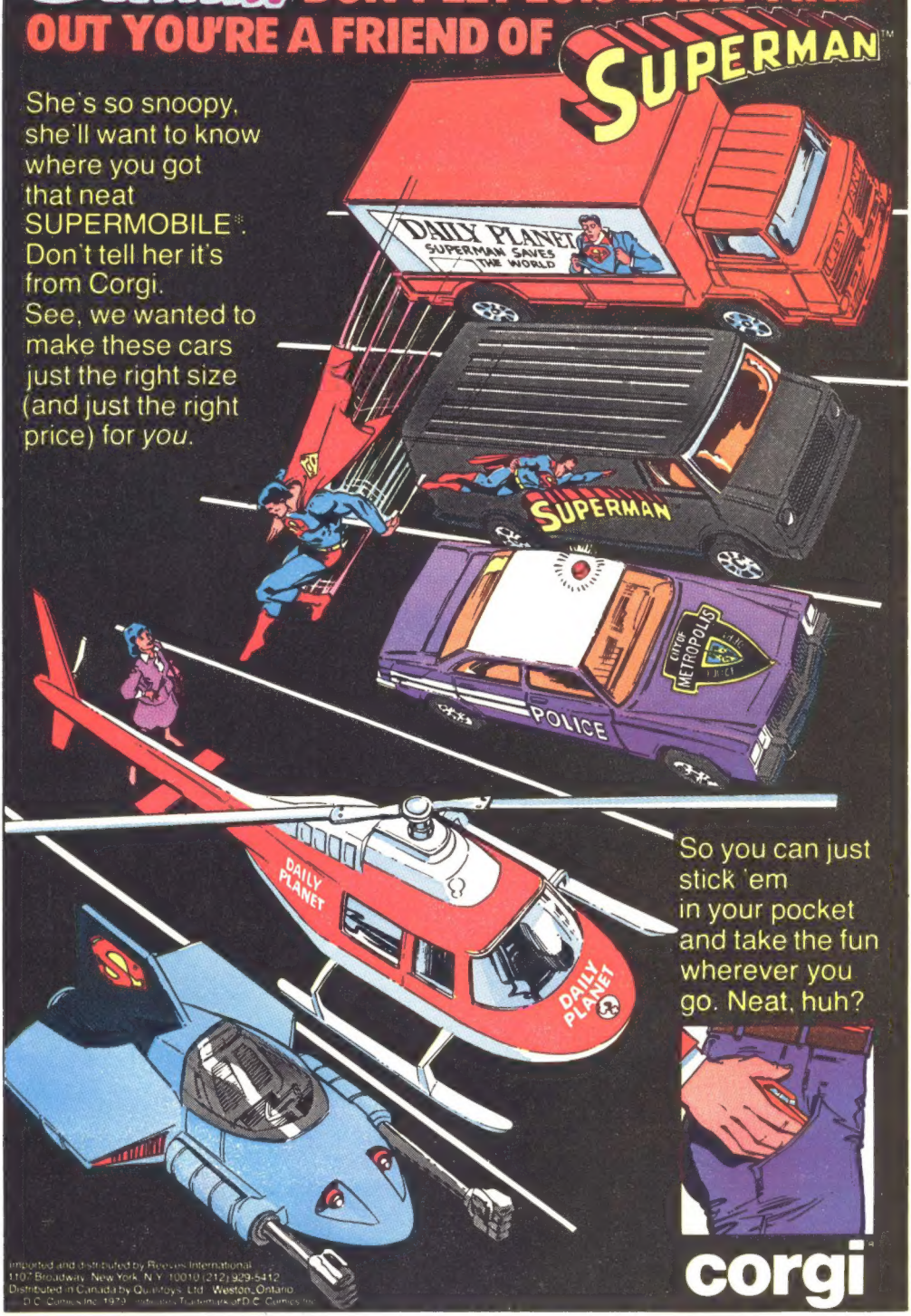
DOES THE MYSTERY MARAUDER'S MASK HIDE THE FACE OF A MAN, OR-- SOMETHING ELSE?
40¢
ALL NEW!
NO. 504
FEB.
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
I WARN YOU, SUPERMAN-- LET ME GO--
--OR I'LL DESTROY THE WHOLE CITY--
--LIKE THIS!
ANDRU & GIORDANO
S 3264

Shhhh DON'T LET LOIS LANE FIND OUT YOU'RE A FRIEND OF SUPERMAN™

She's so snoopy, she'll want to know where you got that neat SUPERMOBILE®. Don't tell her it's from Corgi. See, we wanted to make these cars just the right size (and just the right price) for *you*.



So you can just stick 'em in your pocket and take the fun wherever you go. Neat, huh?

corgi

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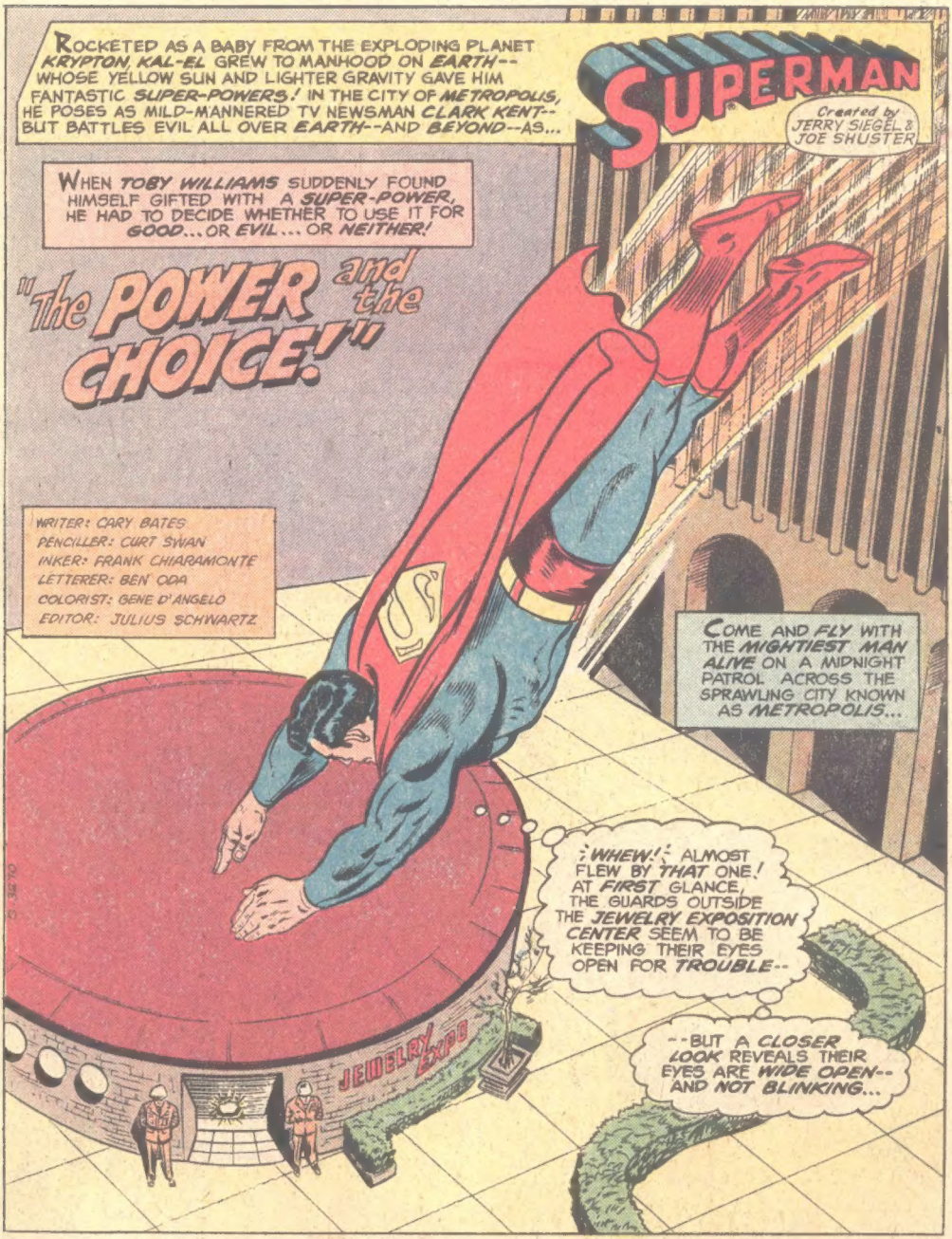
ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
WHEN TOBY WILLIAMS SUDDENLY FOUND HIMSELF GIFTED WITH A SUPER-POWER, HE HAD TO DECIDE WHETHER TO USE IT FOR GOOD... OR EVIL... OR NEITHER!
"The POWER and the CHOICE!"
WRITER: CARY BATES
PENCILLER: CURT SWAN
INKER: FRANK CHIARAMONTE
LETTERER: BEN ODA
COLORIST: GENE D'ANGELO
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ
COME AND FLY WITH THE MIGHTIEST MAN ALIVE ON A MIDNIGHT PATROL ACROSS THE SPRAWLING CITY KNOWN AS METROPOLIS...
WHEW! ALMOST FLEW BY THAT ONE! AT FIRST GLANCE, THE GUARDS OUTSIDE THE JEWELRY EXPOSITION CENTER SEEM TO BE KEEPING THEIR EYES OPEN FOR TROUBLE--
--BUT A CLOSER LOOK REVEALS THEIR EYES ARE WIDE OPEN--AND NOT BLINKING...
JEWELRY EXPO
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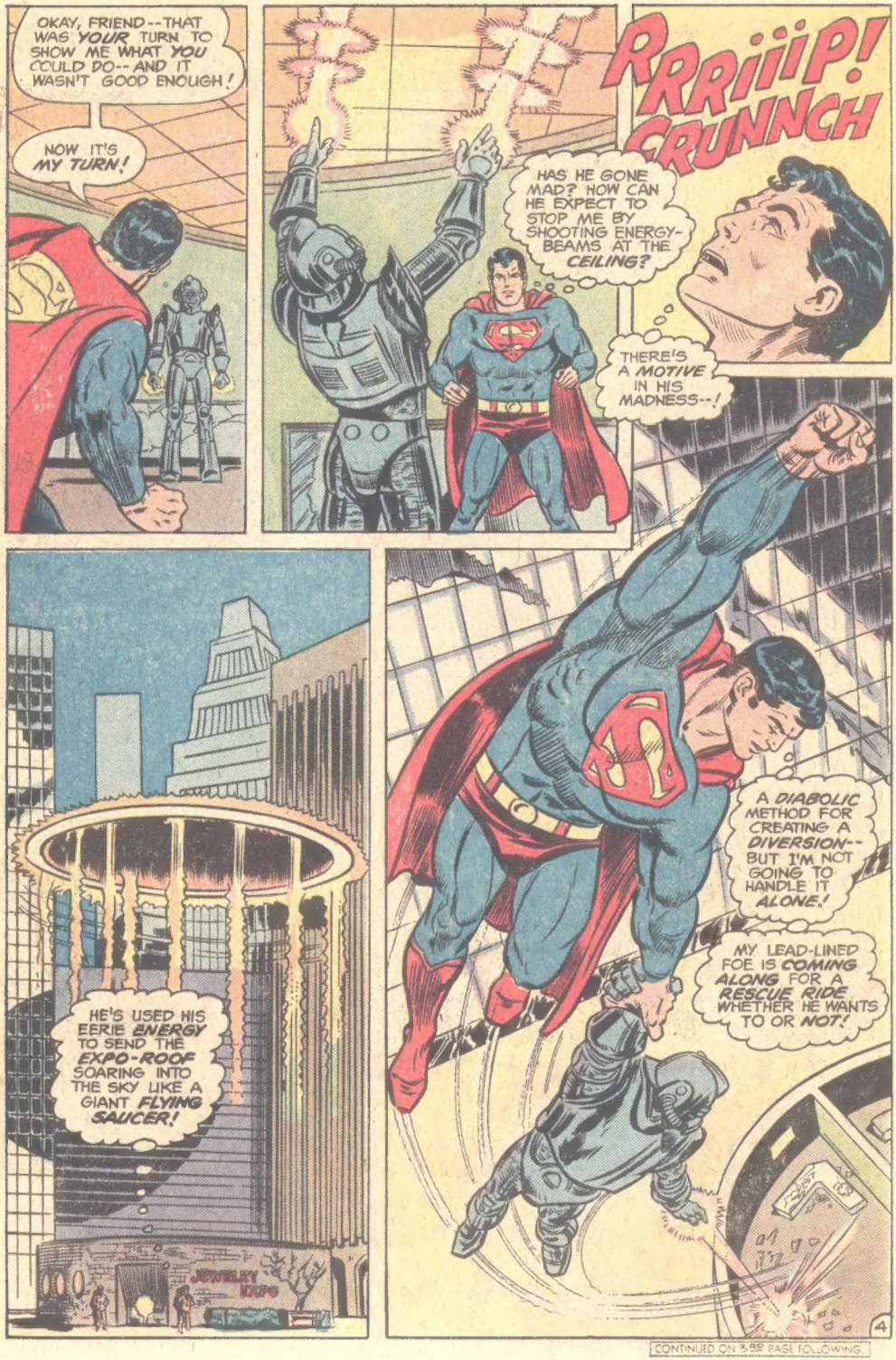
...AS IF THEY ARE IN A TRANCE!
THAT--ALONG WITH THE GLOWING HOLE IN THE METAL DOORWAY--ADD UP TO TROUBLE ON THE INSIDE!
WHATEVER "FORCE" WAS USED TO BREAK IN HERE WAS SO INTENSE, IT NEUTRALIZED THE EXPO'S BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM!
THE JEWEL THIEF HAS AN ARSENAL OF ELABORATE DEVICES! I WONDER IF HE'S ARMED HIMSELF AGAINST SUPERMAN?
A SWEEP OF X-RAY VISION DOESN'T REVEAL ANY SIGN OF THE BURGLAR...
...BUT THERE'S PLENTY OF GLOWING EVIDENCE OF HIS HANDIWORK! THE SAME POWER THAT "OPENED" THE FRONT DOOR "OPENED" THESE DISPLAY CASES!
AS THE MAN OF STEEL TAKES A STEP TOWARD THE NEXT ROOM...
NOW ISN'T THAT ODD! I STOPPED MY OWN HEART SEVERAL SECONDS AGO--
--YET MY SUPER-HEARING IS STILL PICKING UP A RAPIDLY RACING HEARTBEAT--
--JUST A FEW FEET AWAY!
IT'S NOT IN FRONT OF ME... OR BEHIND ME...
...SO IT MUST BE--
2

--ABOVE ME! EH--HE'S GOT THE DROP ON ME.
THOSE ENERGY-BURSTS WOULD SHOCK AN ORDINARY PERSON SENSELESS--BUT MY BODY SIMPLY SHORT-CIRCUITS THEM.
JUDGING FROM YOUR LEAD-LINED UNIFORM, YOU DON'T WANT ME TO SEE WHO--OR WHAT YOU ARE*--
* SUPERMAN'S X-RAY VISION cannot penetrate LEAD. --Julie
--BUT WHEN I BOOK YOU AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS--
!UNNGG! HE PUT EVERYTHING HE HAD IN THAT ONE BLOW--
--SO CONCENTRATED IN POWER...IT'S SENT ME REELING!
3


OKAY, FRIEND--THAT WAS YOUR TURN TO SHOW ME WHAT YOU COULD DO--AND IT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH!
NOW IT'S MY TURN!
RRRiiiP! CRUNNCH
HAS HE GONE MAD? HOW CAN HE EXPECT TO STOP ME BY SHOOTING ENERGY-BEAMS AT THE CEILING?
THERE'S A MOTIVE IN HIS MADNESS--!
A DIABOLIC METHOD FOR CREATING A DIVERSION--BUT I'M NOT GOING TO HANDLE IT ALONE!
MY LEAD-LINED FOE IS COMING ALONG FOR A RESCUE RIDE WHETHER HE WANTS TO OR NOT!
HE'S USED HIS EERIE ENERGY TO SEND THE EXPO-ROOF SOARING INTO THE SKY LIKE A GIANT FLYING SAUCER!
JEWELRY EXPO
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

The human adventure is just beginning.

STAR TREK
THE MOTION PICTURE ™

William Shatner as Captain Kirk | Leonard Nimoy as Mr. Spock | DeForest Kelley as Dr. "Bones" McCoy | Persis Khambatta as Ilia | James Doohan as Scotty | George Takei as Sulu | Majel Barrett as Dr. Chapel | Walter Koenig as Chekov | Nichelle Nichols as Uhura | Stephen Collins as Commander Willard Decker

Paramount Pictures Presents A GENE RODDENBERRY Production A ROBERT WISE Film STAR TREK—THE MOTION PICTURE Starring WILLIAM SHATNER LEONARD NIMOY DeFOREST KELLEY Presenting PERSIS KHAMBATTA Co-Starring JAMES DOOHAN GEORGE TAKEI MAJEL BARRETT WALTER KOENIG NICHELLE NICHOLS and Starring STEPHEN COLLINS as Decker Music by JERRY GOLDSMITH Screenplay by HAROLD LIVINGSTON Story by ALAN DEAN FOSTER Produced by GENE RODDENBERRY Directed by ROBERT WISE

A Paramount Picture

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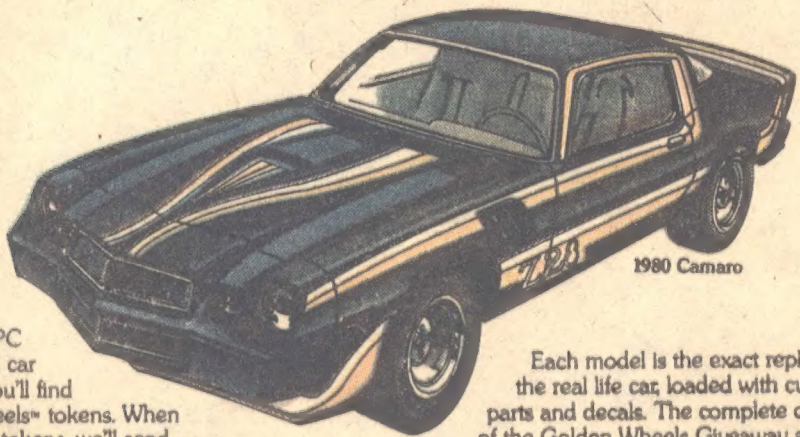
NOW PLAYING AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU.

THIS SET OF MPC WHEELS

GETS YOU THIS SET OF MPC WHEELS FREE.



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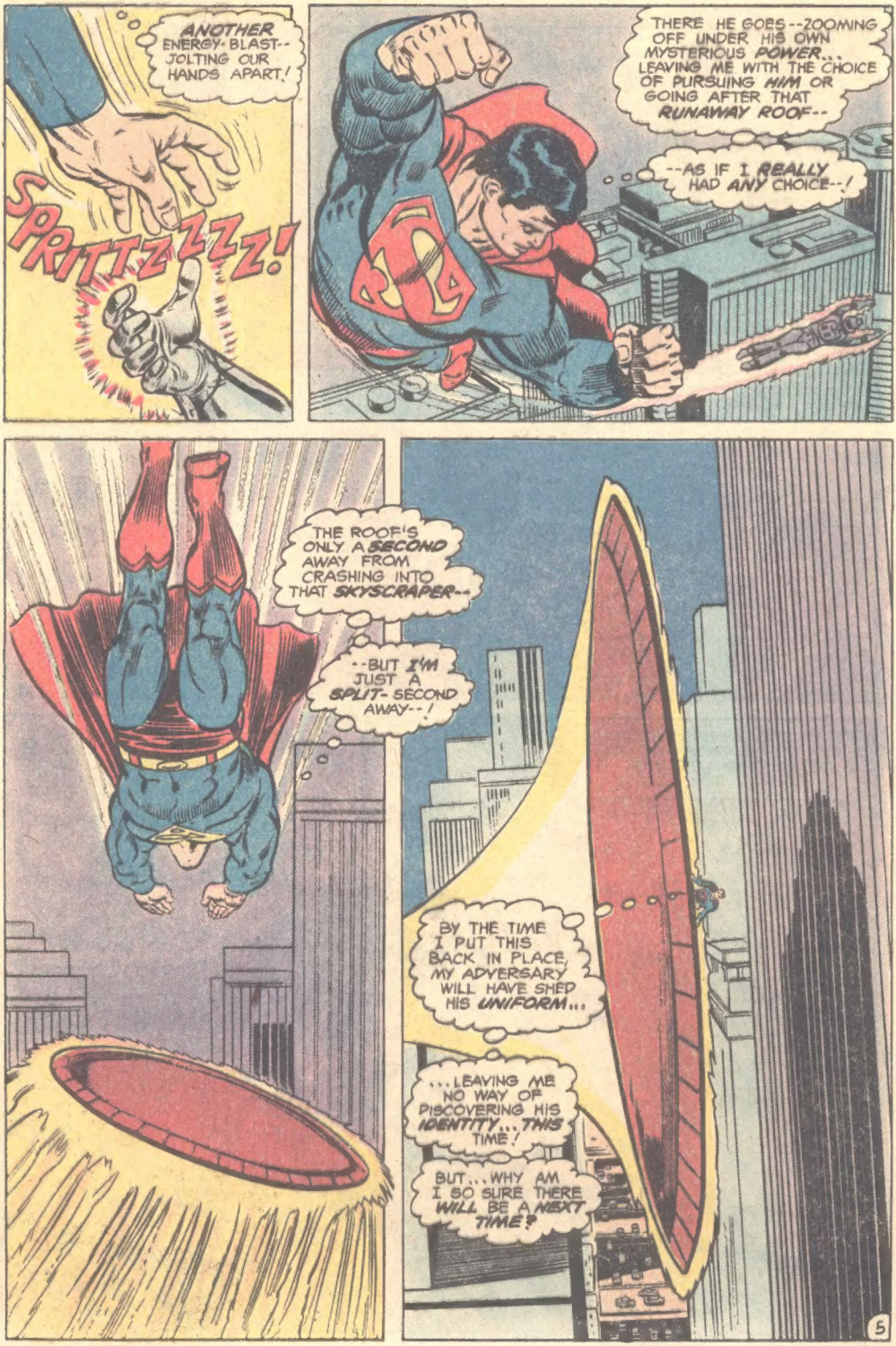
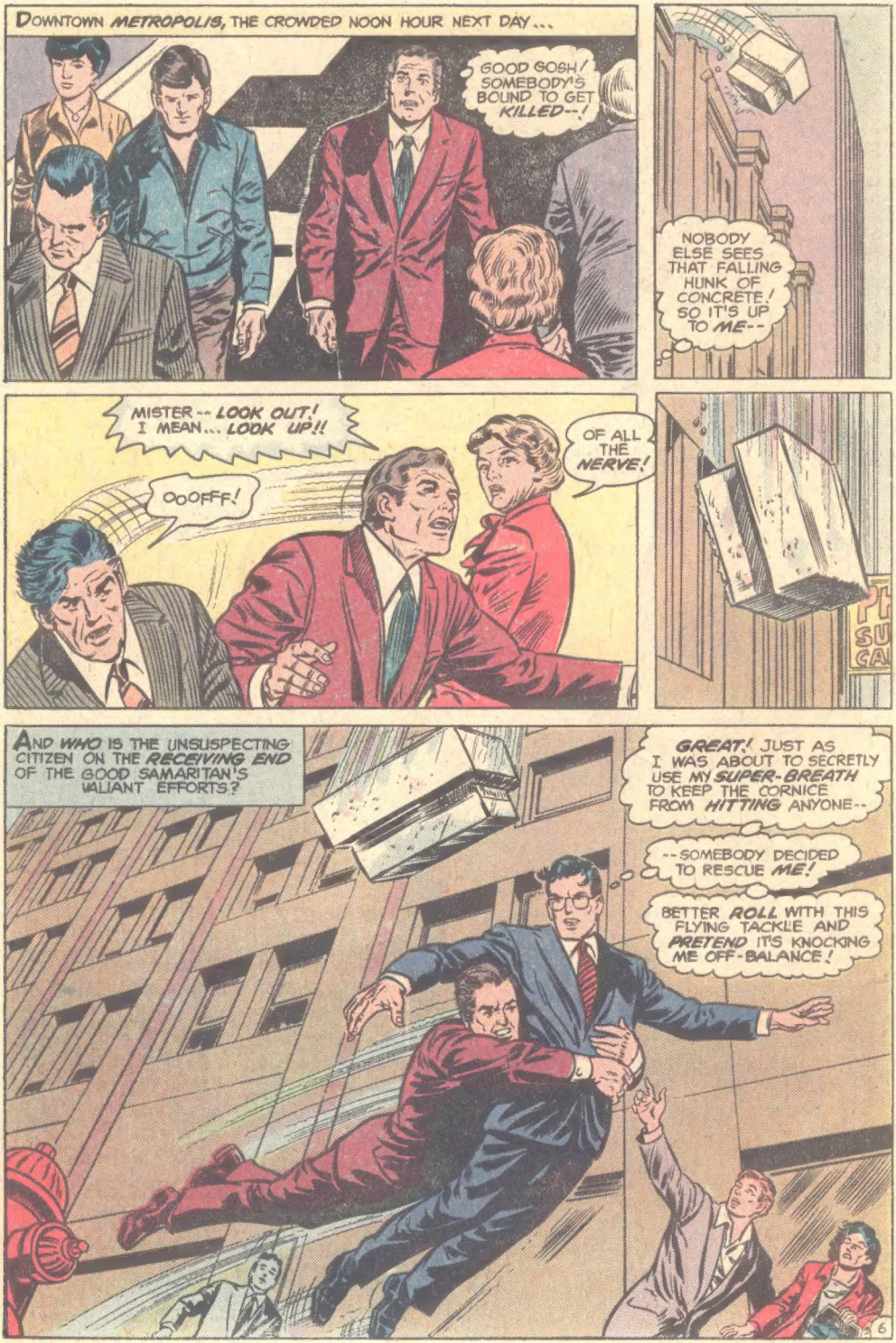

ANOTHER ENERGY-BLAST-- JOLTING OUR HANDS APART!
SPRITZZZZ!
THERE HE GOES--ZOOMING OFF UNDER HIS OWN MYSTERIOUS POWER... LEAVING ME WITH THE CHOICE OF PURSUING HIM OR GOING AFTER THAT RUNAWAY ROOF--
--AS IF I REALLY HAD ANY CHOICE--!
THE ROOF'S ONLY A SECOND AWAY FROM CRASHING INTO THAT SKYSCRAPER--
--BUT I'M JUST A SPLIT-SECOND AWAY--!
BY THE TIME I PUT THIS BACK IN PLACE, MY ADVERSARY WILL HAVE SHED HIS UNIFORM...
...LEAVING ME NO WAY OF DISCOVERING HIS IDENTITY...THIS TIME!
BUT...WHY AM I SO SURE THERE WILL BE A NEXT TIME?
5


DOWNTOWN METROPOLIS, THE CROWDED NOON HOUR NEXT DAY...
GOOD GOSH! SOMEBODY'S BOUND TO GET KILLED--!
NOBODY ELSE SEES THAT FALLING HUNK OF CONCRETE! SO IT'S UP TO ME--
MISTER -- LOOK OUT! I MEAN... LOOK UP!!
OOOFF!
OF ALL THE NERVE!
AND WHO IS THE UNSUSPECTING CITIZEN ON THE RECEIVING END OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN'S VALIANT EFFORTS?
GREAT! JUST AS I WAS ABOUT TO SECRETLY USE MY SUPER-BREATH TO KEEP THE CORNICE FROM HITTING ANYONE--
--SOMEBODY DECIDED TO RESCUE ME!
BETTER ROLL WITH THIS FLYING TACKLE AND PRETEND IT'S KNOCKING ME OFF-BALANCE!
6

AND AS THE GROUNDED MAN OF STEEL IS ABOUT TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HIS SUPER-BREATH...
GREAT SCOTT! LOOKS LIKE MY POWERS WON'T BE NEEDED AT ALL--
--BECAUSE MY RESCUER HAS OUT-SUFFERED ME AGAIN!
HE'S SUSPENDED THE CORNICE IN MID-AIR BY SENDING OUT AN ENERGY-BEAM-- FROM HIS FOREHEAD!?!
THE NEXT EYE-STAGGERING INSTANT...
THAT CHUNK OF CONCRETE IS GONE --DISINTEGRATED!
THAT ENERGY-BEAM LOOKED LIKE--
NO... NO-- BLAST IT! IT'S ALL COMING BACK TO ME! I NEED HELP!
WERE YOU HURT, SIR? SHALL I GET YOU TO A DOCTOR?
GOLL--EEE! YOU SEE WHAT THAT FELLA DONE?
I THOUGHT I WAS SEEING THINGS--BUT YOU SAW IT TOO? HOW DID HE DO IT--?
ANYONE WHO READS SCIENCE FICTION KNOWS THAT IT WAS MIND-OVER-MATTER!
PLEASE, MISTER... GET ME AWAY FROM THESE PEOPLE...
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR A MAN WHO JUST SAVED MY LIFE!
TAXI!
7

THANKS... FORTUNATELY, I'M SORT OF AVERAGE-LOOKING AND THE ONLOOKERS WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO GIVE A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ME!
I GATHER YOU'D RATHER NOT CALL ATTENTION TO YOURSELF OR YOUR REMARKABLE POWERS!
TAXI
IF YOU WERE IN MY SHOES, YOU'D FEEL THE SAME WAY--MR. KENT!
YES, I RECOGNIZED YOU RIGHT AWAY! I WATCH YOUR 6 O'CLOCK NEWSCASTS ALL THE TIME!
BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR NOT TELLING YOU MY NAME!
HUNH--? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
EXACTLY... AND I WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY!
CABBY-- PULL OVER AT THE NEXT CORNER! I'M GETTING OUT!
I'D HATE TO SEE THIS INCIDENT APPEAR ON THE WOBS NEWS TONIGHT OR IN THE DAILY PLANET TOMORROW, MR. KENT!
I'M AFRAID TOO MANY PEOPLE SAW IT--MY BOSSES WILL INSIST ON A FIRST-HAND REPORT!
NOT THAT I'D REVEAL WHO YOU ARE--EVEN IF I KNEW! I'LL RESPECT YOUR DESIRE FOR ANONYMITY!
HMM... LOOKS LIKE MY RESCUER WAS ON HIS WAY TO A DATE WHEN WE CROSSED PATHS!
IT COULD BE HE WAS JUST IN A HURRY AND DIDN'T WANT TO TAKE ANY TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS...
...OR IT COULD BE HE'S DETERMINED TO KEEP HIS ASTOUNDING POWERS A SECRET FROM EVERYONE ...EVEN THOSE CLOSEST TO HIM!
HOWEVER-- KEEPING SECRETS FROM SUPERMAN IS ANOTHER MATTER!
TAXI
TON HOTEL
I MANAGED TO X-RAY THE DRIVER'S LICENSE IN HIS WALLET AS HE WAS GETTING OUT--
DRIVER'S LICENSE
Tobias Williams
--AND I'VE MEMORIZED MR. TOBIAS WILLIAMS' HOME ADDRESS -- FOR LATER! RIGHT NOW, I HAVE A 6 O'CLOCK NEWSCAST TO PREPARE!
8

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

ADVERTISEMENT

BATMAN AND PROFESSOR PLUTONIUM
BATMAN HAS RECEIVED A TIP THAT A CRIMINAL CALLED PROFESSOR PLUTONIUM WILL STRIKE AT MIDNIGHT, FROM GOTHAM HARBOR.
I WONDER WHAT THE TIPSTER MEANT WHEN HE SAID THIS WAS MY "GOLDEN" OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE PROFESSOR IN ACTION?
HE MUST'VE SPOTTED ME! HE'S PULLING OUT -- BUT THE BATBOAT IS FASTER!
YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME! TONIGHT, ALL OF AMERICA'S GOLD RESERVES WILL DISAPPEAR IN A PUFF OF SMOKE! IF I CAN'T HAVE IT, I'LL DESTROY IT!
SO THAT'S IT! I MUST STOP HIM BEFORE HE BOMBS FORT KNOX!
HEY, PROFESSOR! HOW ABOUT A MIDNIGHT SNACK?
HA! HA! THE ONLY THING THAT TEMPTS ME IS GOLD!
GOLD? TRY THESE!
WHAT'S THIS? GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE? WHY, THESE ARE HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES.
CREAMED FILLING, TOO. THIS SEA AIR REALLY GAVE ME AN APPETITE.
I HOPE YOU ALSO DEVELOP A TASTE FOR PRISON FOOD, PROFESSOR.
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES
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YOU'VE BEEN EARTHBOUND LONG ENOUGH!
ENTER THE--
TIMEWARP
Dollar Comic
DOOMSDAY TALES OF FAR OTHER THINGS
8 NEW STORIES!
#3 ON SALE NOV. 20th!
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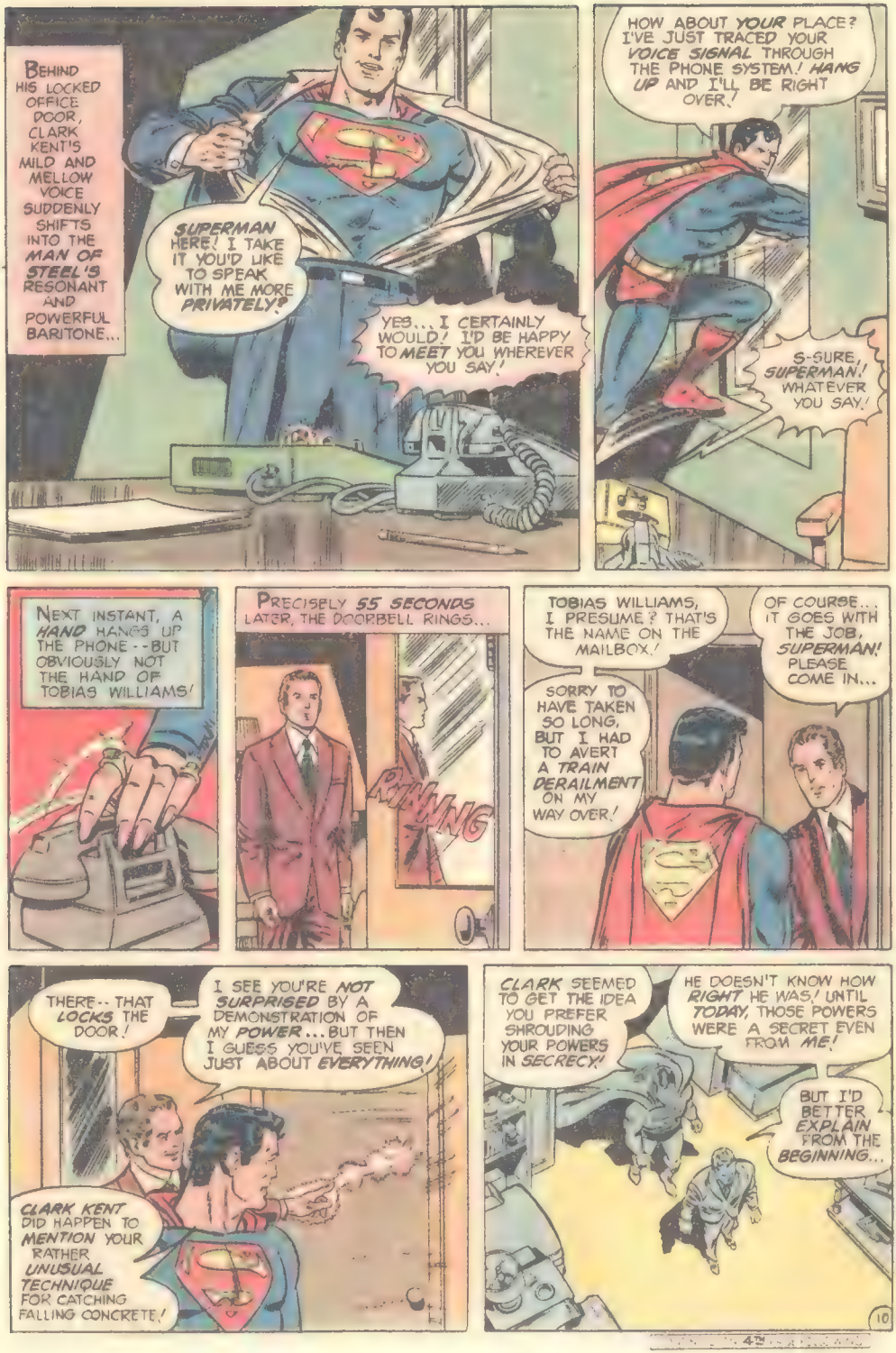
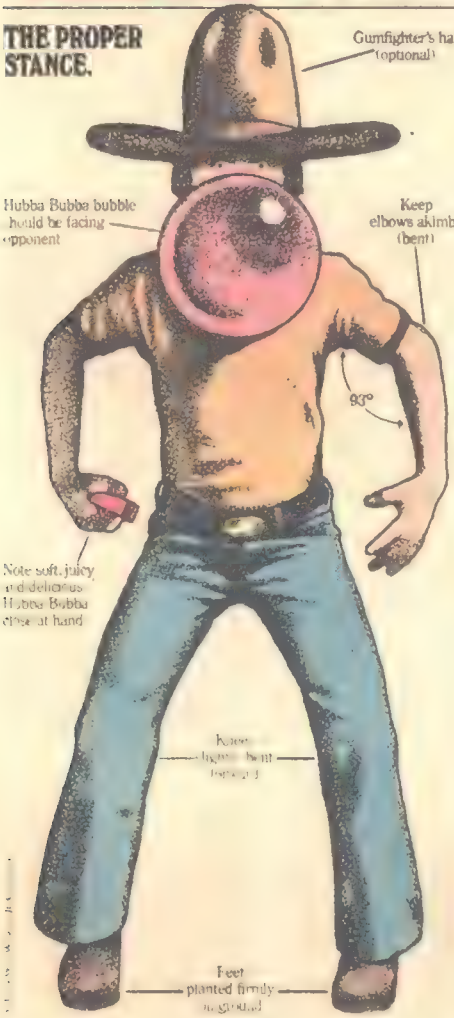
... AND ACCORDING TO EXPO OFFICIALS, THE MYSTERIOUS BURGLAR ESCAPED WITH A FORTUNE IN GEMS AFTER ELUDING SUPERMAN HIGH OVER METROPOLIS!
BACK TO YOU, LANA!
6:59 P.M. --AS THE WGBS NEWS TEAM SIGNS OFF...
SMOOTH SHOW TONIGHT, CLARK!
JUST HEARD FROM AGNES UPSTAIRS -- SHE HAS SOMEONE ON HOLD ON YOUR PRIVATE OFFICE-LINE! THE CALLER WON'T SAY WHO HE IS -- ONLY THAT IT IS URGENT!
THANKS, JOSH!
HELLO -- CLARK KENT SPEAKING!
MR. KENT, I'M HOPING YOU'LL RECOGNIZE MY VOICE! I WANT TO ASK A BIG FAVOR OF YOU!
AFTER THAT LIFE-SAVING FLYING TACKLE TODAY, I CERTAINLY OWE YOU ONE! HOW CAN I HELP?
PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH SUPERMAN! IT'S PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE YOU TWO ARE GOOD FRIENDS!
WHAT I HAVE TO SAY CAN ONLY BE SAID TO HIM!
YOU'RE RIDING IN LUCK, FRIEND ... BECAUSE SUPERMAN JUST HAPPENED TO STOP BY ON HIS PATROL! HE'S RIGHT HERE IN MY OFFICE!
PHONE INTERCOM
OFF
ON
CAN YOU SPARE THIS FELLOW A FEW MOMENTS, SUPERMAN?
IT'S ABOUT TIME I HAD SOME GOOD LUCK FOR A CHANGE!

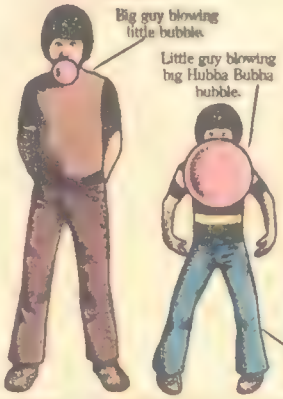

BEHIND HIS LOCKED OFFICE DOOR, CLARK KENT'S MILD AND MELLOW VOICE SUDDENLY SHIFTS INTO THE MAN OF STEEL'S RESONANT AND POWERFUL BARITONE...
SUPERMAN HERE! I TAKE IT YOU'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH ME MORE PRIVATELY?
YES... I CERTAINLY WOULD! I'D BE HAPPY TO MEET YOU WHEREVER YOU SAY!
HOW ABOUT YOUR PLACE? I'VE JUST TRACED YOUR VOICE SIGNAL THROUGH THE PHONE SYSTEM! HANG UP AND I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!
S-SURE, SUPERMAN! WHATEVER YOU SAY!
NEXT INSTANT, A HAND HANGS UP THE PHONE -- BUT OBVIOUSLY NOT THE HAND OF TOBIAS WILLIAMS!
PRECISELY 55 SECONDS LATER, THE DOORBELL RINGS...
RIIING
TOBIAS WILLIAMS, I PRESUME? THAT'S THE NAME ON THE MAILBOX!
OF COURSE... IT GOES WITH THE JOB, SUPERMAN! PLEASE COME IN...
SORRY TO HAVE TAKEN SO LONG, BUT I HAD TO AVERT A TRAIN DERAILMENT ON MY WAY OVER!
THERE -- THAT LOCKS THE DOOR!
I SEE YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED BY A DEMONSTRATION OF MY POWER... BUT THEN I GUESS YOU'VE SEEN JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING!
CLARK KENT DID HAPPEN TO MENTION YOUR RATHER UNUSUAL TECHNIQUE FOR CATCHING FALLING CONCRETE!
CLARK SEEMED TO GET THE IDEA YOU PREFER SHROUDING YOUR POWERS IN SECRECY!
HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW RIGHT HE WAS! UNTIL TODAY, THOSE POWERS WERE A SECRET EVEN FROM ME!
BUT I'D BETTER EXPLAIN FROM THE BEGINNING...
10

GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS.

The first thing to do—pick the right chew- new Hubba Bubba.® The soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.™ Then proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill: (1) Begin blowing bubble. Note Hubba Bubba's incredibly large bubble. (2) When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do not be alarmed. (3) Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1. Repeat drill ten times.

THE PROPER STANCE.


Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
90°
Note soft, juicy delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand
Feet planted firmly on ground



YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum —Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great, big, fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

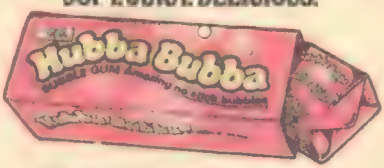
Note proper stance

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

This boy did. And now instead of wearing a smile, he's wearing a paper bag over the bubble gum stuck to his face. Definitely not new soft and juicy Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum. Does Hubba Bubba really work? Absolutely! Hubba Bubba is gumfighter tested and approved.

So pick up a pack of new Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavor. Enjoy that soft, juicy, delicious taste. Plus those great, big Hubba Bubba bubbles that won't stick to your face.

SOFT. JUICY. DELICIOUS.



BIG BUBBLES, NO TROUBLES.

STAR WARS

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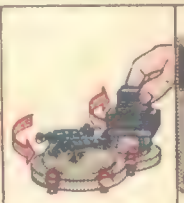
Stormtrooper™ carrier vehicle
Holds up to 11 action figures! Plays six sounds from Star Wars™ including R2-D2,™ C-3PO™ and Stormtrooper!™ *Assembly required.*

Star Wars™ action figures not included. Batteries not included

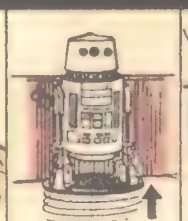
Push buttons and hear Star Wars™ sounds.



Movable Laser Gun™ and radar dish.

Place figure in driver's seat.

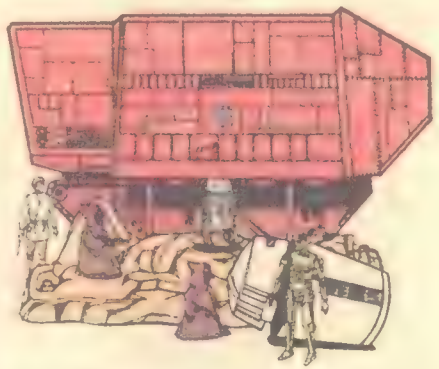
Lever makes Jawa™ move, knock over & capture R2-D2™



Elevator lifts up into Sandcrawler™

Escape landing pod

NEW STAR WARS™ LAND OF THE JAWAS™



An action playset to recreate the adventures of the mysterious Jawas™ and their Sandcrawler™ on Tatooine™ desert! *Assembly required*

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STAR WARS™ RADIO-CONTROLLED R2-D2™

You can make the lovable little droid come to life with wireless radio control! He beeps, flashes his light, turns his head and moves in all directions! 8" Tall.

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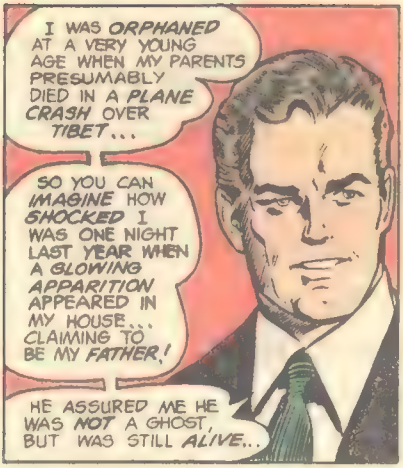
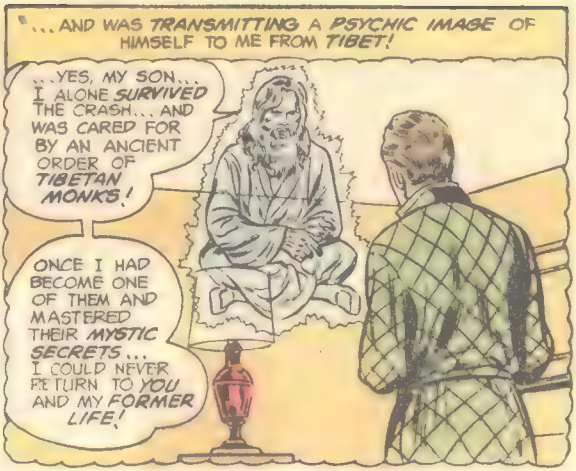
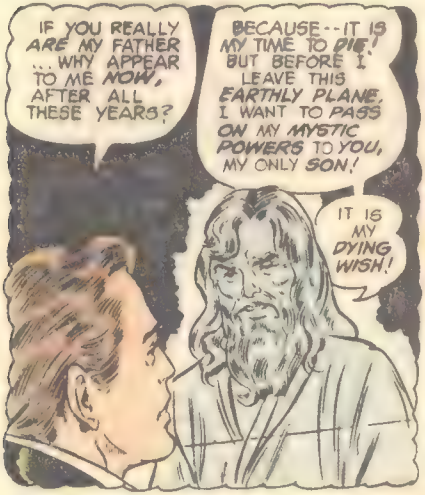
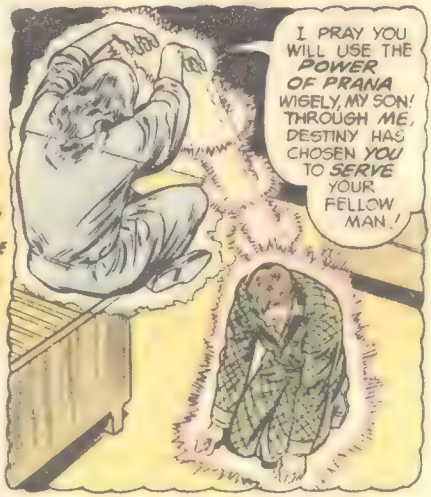

I WAS ORPHANED AT A VERY YOUNG AGE WHEN MY PARENTS PRESUMABLY DIED IN A PLANE CRASH OVER TIBET...
SO YOU CAN IMAGINE HOW SHOCKED I WAS ONE NIGHT LAST YEAR WHEN A GLOWING APPARITION APPEARED IN MY HOUSE... CLAIMING TO BE MY FATHER!
HE ASSURED ME HE WAS NOT A GHOST, BUT WAS STILL ALIVE...

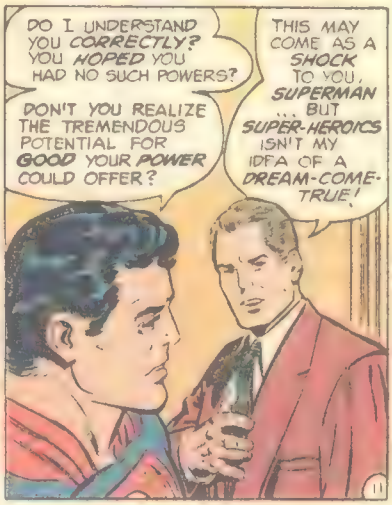

"...AND WAS TRANSMITTING A PSYCHIC IMAGE OF HIMSELF TO ME FROM TIBET!
...YES, MY SON... I ALONE SURVIVED THE CRASH... AND WAS CARED FOR BY AN ANCIENT ORDER OF TIBETAN MONKS!
ONCE I HAD BECOME ONE OF THEM AND MASTERED THEIR MYSTIC SECRETS... I COULD NEVER RETURN TO YOU AND MY FORMER LIFE!


IF YOU REALLY ARE MY FATHER ...WHY APPEAR TO ME NOW, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?
BECAUSE--IT IS MY TIME TO DIE! BUT BEFORE I LEAVE THIS EARTHLY PLANE, I WANT TO PASS ON MY MYSTIC POWERS TO YOU, MY ONLY SON!
IT IS MY DYING WISH!

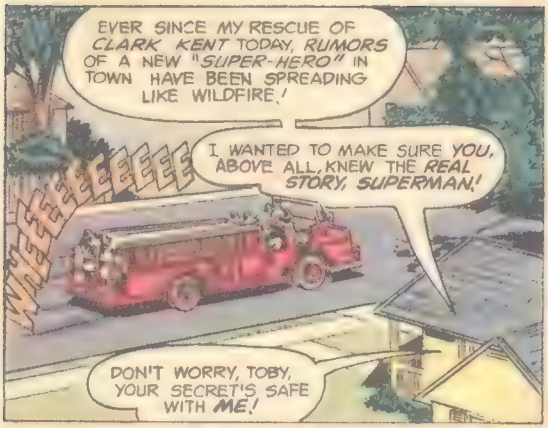
"NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS FALLING TO MY KNEES-- AND EXPERIENCING THE MOST INDESCRIBABLE SURGE OF WONDEROUS ENERGY FLOW THROUGH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING!

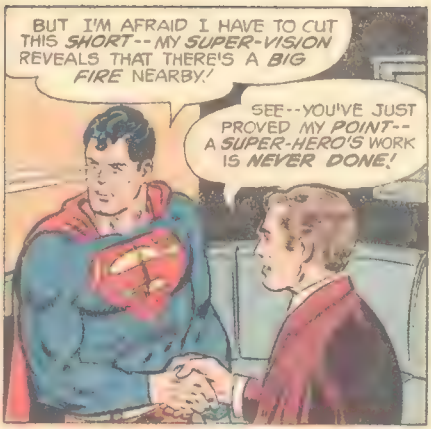


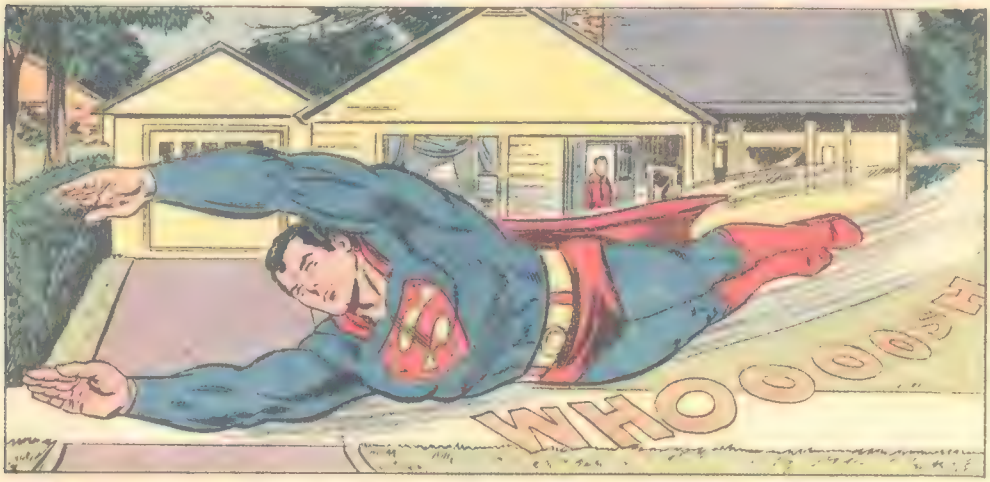
"ANY HOPES I HAD OF THAT VISITATION BEING A DREAM OR A HOAX WERE SHATTERED THE NEXT DAY--WHEN I PUT MYSELF TO THE TEST AND DISCOVERED I TRULY DID POSSESS FANTASTIC MYSTICAL POWERS!"

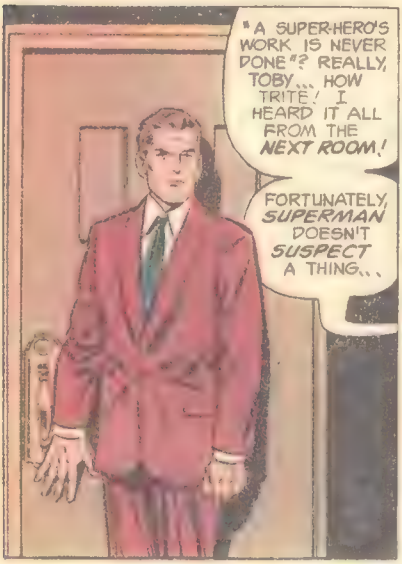

DO I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY? YOU HOPED YOU HAD NO SUCH POWERS?
DON'T YOU REALIZE THE TREMENDOUS POTENTIAL FOR GOOD YOUR POWER COULD OFFER?
THIS MAY COME AS A SHOCK TO YOU, SUPERMAN ... BUT SUPER-HEROICS ISN'T MY IDEA OF A DREAM-COME-TRUE!

I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO MEDICAL RESEARCH... AND THAT MEANS LONG HOURS AT THE METRO-CLINIC SIX DAYS A WEEK!
WHAT LITTLE TIME I HAVE LEFT TO ME IS FOR MY OWN PERSONAL LIFE! AND I'M EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING A WIFE AND FAMILY!
BUT HOW ABOUT YOU, SUPERMAN...
...HAVE YOU HAD TIME TO MARRY... RAISE A FAMILY? I DOUBT IT! SUPER-HEROES AREN'T SUPPOSED TO THINK OF THEMSELVES, RIGHT?
AND CONSIDERING YOU MUST HAVE A SECRET IDENTITY, I BET YOUR PRIVATE LIFE CAN'T BE MUCH!
YOUR JOB AS SUPERMAN MUST ALWAYS COME FIRST!
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DO IT... I ONLY KNOW I COULDN'T!
IT BOTHERED ME THAT I'D BE CONSTANTLY TEMPTED TO USE THE POWER OF PRANA WHENEVER I SAW A DANGER OR MENACE!
THERE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE ANY SOLUTION TO MY PROBLEM... UNTIL THE WONDERFUL DAY I MET SHIELA AT A PARTY!
HMMM... A PHOTO OF THE WOMAN WHO MET TOBY OUTSIDE THE TAXI TODAY!
FOR ME, IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! WE QUICKLY GREW VERY CLOSE... AND NATURALLY, I TOLD HER EVERYTHING!
I WAS DETERMINED THERE WOULD BE NO SECRETS BETWEEN US!
"SHIELA, IN TURN, REVEALED SHE ONCE PERFORMED IN NIGHTCLUBS--AS A PROFESSIONAL HYPNOTIST! SIMULTANEOUSLY, WE BOTH REALIZED WE HAD THE SOLUTION TO MY PROBLEM!
YOU WILL FORGET YOU POSSESS THE POWER OF PRANA... COMPLETELY FORGET...
"SHIELA'S SPELL WAS ONLY PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL -- FOR IT WORE OFF EVERY FEW MONTHS..."
...AS IT WORE OFF TODAY WHEN I RESCUED CLARK KENT! NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH-- WHEN SHIELA STOPS BY TONIGHT, SHE'LL PUT ME UNDER AGAIN!
SHE MUST STOP BY QUITE OFTEN! I DON'T NEED SUPER-SMELL TO DETECT THE SCENT OF A WOMAN'S PERFUME IN THIS HOUSE!
12

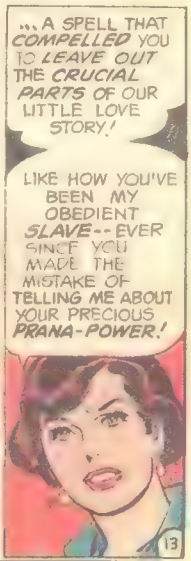

EVER SINCE MY RESCUE OF CLARK KENT TODAY, RUMORS OF A NEW "SUPER-HERO" IN TOWN HAVE BEEN SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE!
I WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU, ABOVE ALL, KNEW THE REAL STORY, SUPERMAN!
WHEEEEEEEEE
DON'T WORRY, TOBY, YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME!


BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO CUT THIS SHORT--MY SUPER-VISION REVEALS THAT THERE'S A BIG FIRE NEARBY!
SEE--YOU'VE JUST PROVED MY POINT--A SUPER-HERO'S WORK IS NEVER DONE!




"A SUPER-HERO'S WORK IS NEVER DONE"? REALLY, TOBY... HOW TRITE! I HEARD IT ALL FROM THE NEXT ROOM!
FORTUNATELY, SUPERMAN DOESN'T SUSPECT A THING...

...NO THANKS TO YOU!
I SHOWED UP IN TIME TO HEAR THE TAIL-END OF THAT PHONE CALL--YOU WERE PLANNING TO CONFESS AND TURN YOURSELF IN TO SUPERMAN, I'LL WAGER!
THERE WAS JUST ENOUGH TIME TO HYPNOTIZE YOU WITH ANOTHER SPELL...


...A SPELL THAT COMPELLED YOU TO LEAVE OUT THE CRUCIAL PARTS OF OUR LITTLE LOVE STORY!
LIKE HOW YOU'VE BEEN MY OBEDIENT SLAVE--EVER SINCE YOU MADE THE MISTAKE OF TELLING ME ABOUT YOUR PRECIOUS PRANA-POWER!
13

CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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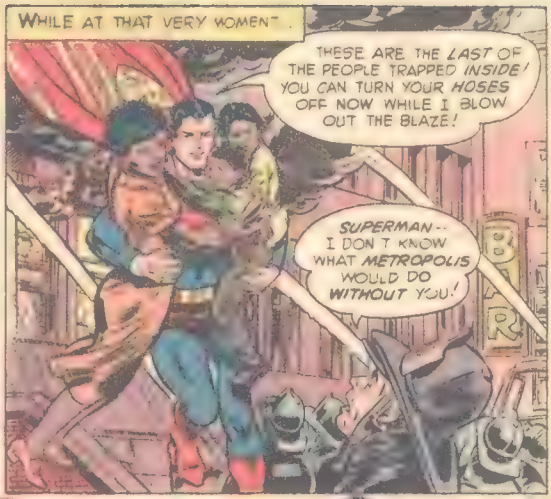
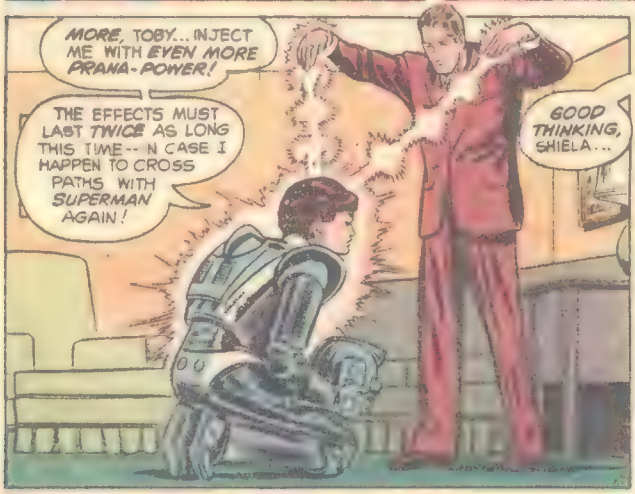
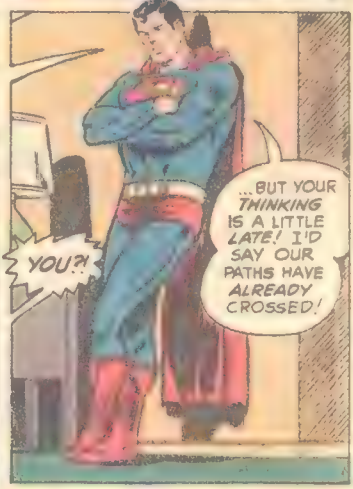
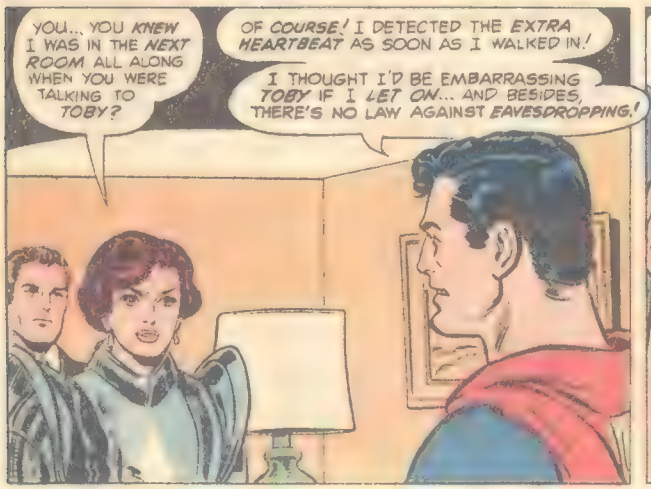
Soon the screen will be bombarded by the m ost explosive barrage of ever filmed
1941
COMING THIS CHRISTMAS TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU.

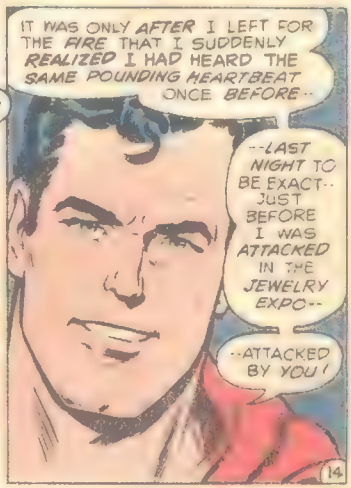
AND SPEAKING OF THE POWER-- THE TIME HAS COME FOR ANOTHER ROBBERY! I'VE ALREADY CASED THE LOCATION!
SINCE YOU'RE COMPLETELY UNDER MY CONTROL AGAIN... I'M SURE YOU WON'T OBJECT IF WE START IMMEDIATELY!


WHILE AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
THESE ARE THE LAST OF THE PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE! YOU CAN TURN YOUR HOSES OFF NOW WHILE I BLOW OUT THE BLAZE!
SUPERMAN-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT METROPOLIS WOULD DO WITHOUT YOU!

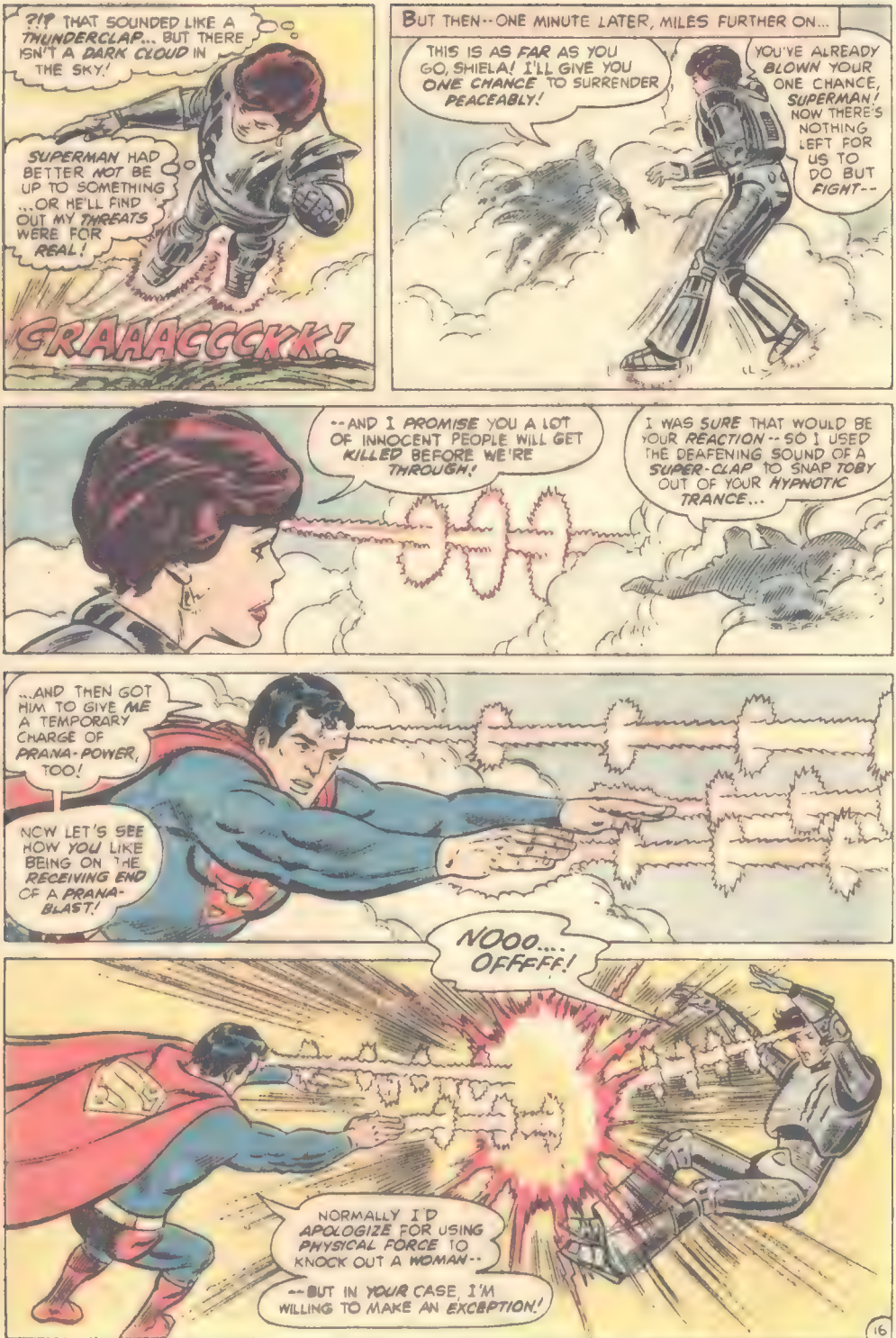

MORE, TOBY... INJECT ME WITH EVEN MORE PRANA-POWER!
THE EFFECTS MUST LAST TWICE AS LONG THIS TIME-- IN CASE I HAPPEN TO CROSS PATHS WITH SUPERMAN AGAIN!
GOOD THINKING, SHIELA...


YOU?!
...BUT YOUR THINKING IS A LITTLE LATE! I'D SAY OUR PATHS HAVE ALREADY CROSSED!


YOU... YOU KNEW I WAS IN THE NEXT ROOM ALL ALONG WHEN YOU WERE TALKING TO TOBY?
OF COURSE! I DETECTED THE EXTRA HEARTBEAT AS SOON AS I WALKED IN!
I THOUGHT I'D BE EMBARRASSING TOBY IF I LET ON... AND BESIDES, THERE'S NO LAW AGAINST EAVESDROPPING!


IT WAS ONLY AFTER I LEFT FOR THE FIRE THAT I SUDDENLY REALIZED I HAD HEARD THE SAME POUNDING HEARTBEAT ONCE BEFORE--
--LAST NIGHT TO BE EXACT-- JUST BEFORE I WAS ATTACKED IN THE JEWELRY EXPO--
--ATTACKED BY YOU!
14

SO NOW YOU KNOW, SUPERMAN-- BUT YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW THIS--
--I'VE ALREADY RECEIVED ENOUGH PRANA-POWER FROM TOBY TO DEAL WITH YOU HERE AND NOW!
AND IN CASE IT DIDN'T SINK IN THE FIRST TIME--
FRZZTTTT
--CONCENTRATED PRANA-POWER CAN KNOCK YOU OFF YOUR FEET!
TO PULL A STUNT LIKE THAT, TOBY'S MYSTICAL POWER MUST BE MAGICAL* IN NATURE!
*MAGIC IS one of SUPERMAN'S few WEAKNESSES! --Julie
I SUGGEST YOU DON'T GO AFTER ME THIS TIME, SUPERMAN-- OR I'LL DESTROY INNOCENT LIVES ALONG THE WAY! UNDERSTAND--?
--ALL TOO WELL!
I'D HATE TO RISK A BATTLE OF SUPER-POWERS VERSUS PRANA-POWER THAT COULD ENDANGER THE CITIZENS OF METROPOLIS!
BUT MAYBE I WON'T HAVE TO...
...NOT IF I CAN FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE!!
15


?!? THAT SOUNDED LIKE A THUNDERCLAP... BUT THERE ISN'T A DARK CLOUD IN THE SKY!
SUPERMAN HAD BETTER NOT BE UP TO SOMETHING ...OR HE'LL FIND OUT MY THREATS WERE FOR REAL!
GRAAACCCKK!
BUT THEN--ONE MINUTE LATER, MILES FURTHER ON...
THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO, SHIELA! I'LL GIVE YOU ONE CHANCE TO SURRENDER PEACEABLY!
YOU'VE ALREADY BLOWN YOUR ONE CHANCE, SUPERMAN! NOW THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR US TO DO BUT FIGHT--
--AND I PROMISE YOU A LOT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL GET KILLED BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH!
I WAS SURE THAT WOULD BE YOUR REACTION--SO I USED THE DEAFENING SOUND OF A SUPER-CLAP TO SNAP TOBY OUT OF YOUR HYPNOTIC TRANCE...
...AND THEN GOT HIM TO GIVE ME A TEMPORARY CHARGE OF PRANA-POWER, TOO!
NOW LET'S SEE HOW YOU LIKE BEING ON THE RECEIVING END OF A PRANA-BLAST!
NOOO.... OFFFFF!
NORMALLY I'D APOLOGIZE FOR USING PHYSICAL FORCE TO KNOCK OUT A WOMAN--
--BUT IN YOUR CASE, I'M WILLING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION!
16
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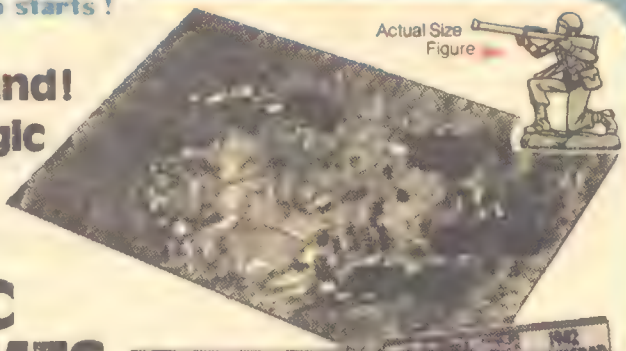

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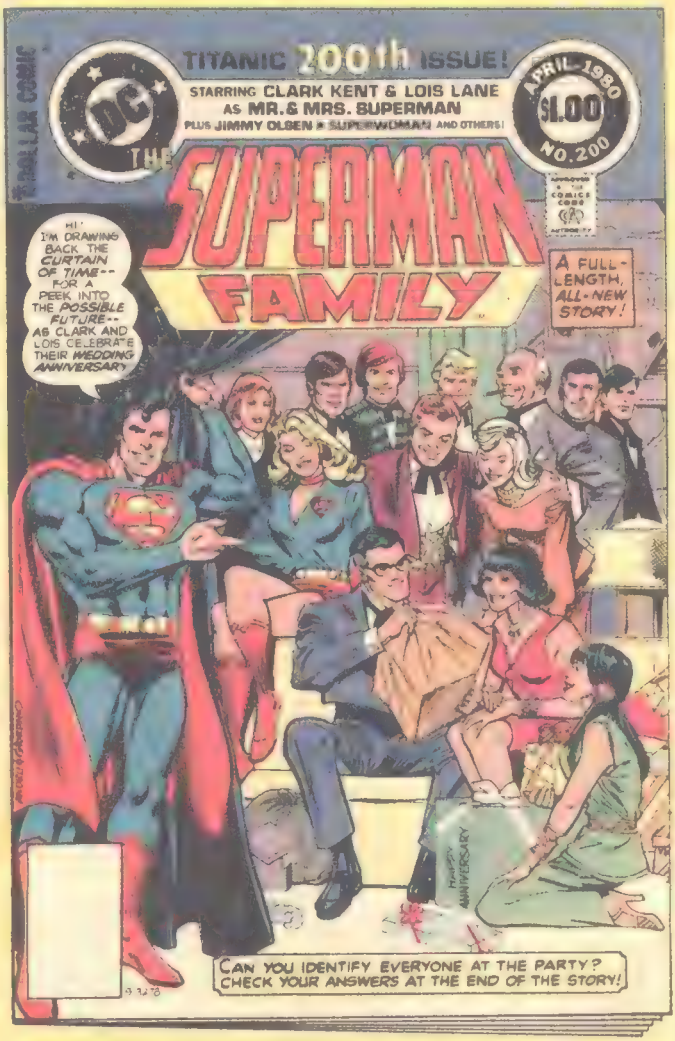
THE 200TH ISSUE OF SUPERMAN FAMILY AND THE 17TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF CLARK KENT & LOIS LANE!

JOURNEY 20 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE!

MEET PLANET EDITOR JIMMY OLSEN...

GOVERNOR LINDA (SUPERWOMAN) DANVERS...

AND A NEW MEMBER OF THIS FAMILY-- WHO IS ON THIS COVER!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THE SUPERMAN FAMILY
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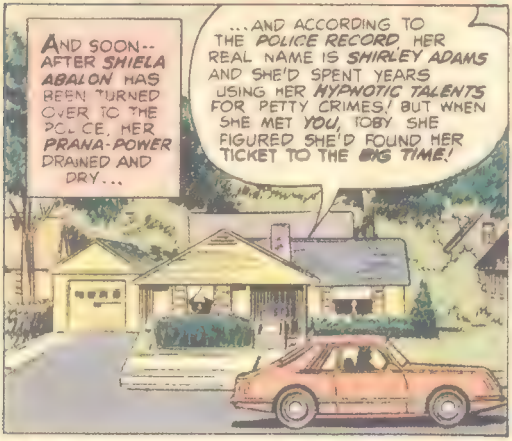
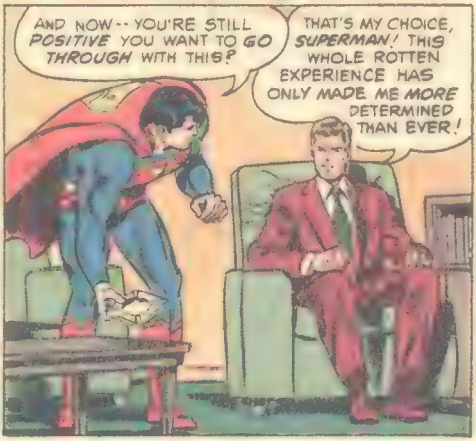
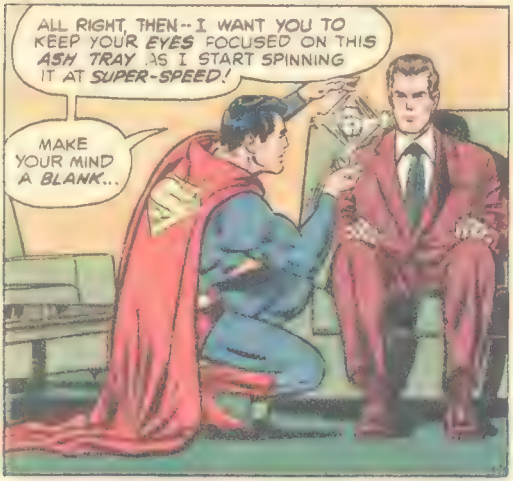
HI! I'M DRAWING BACK THE CURTAIN OF TIME-- FOR A PEEK INTO THE POSSIBLE FUTURE-- AS CLARK AND LOIS CELEBRATE THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
CAN YOU IDENTIFY EVERYONE AT THE PARTY? CHECK YOUR ANSWERS AT THE END OF THE STORY!

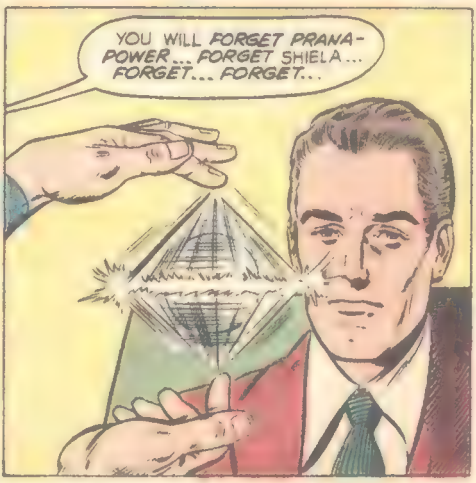
On Sale DEC. 6!

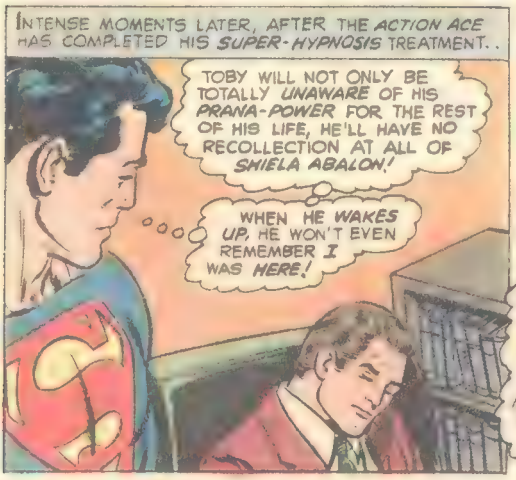
EPILOGUE

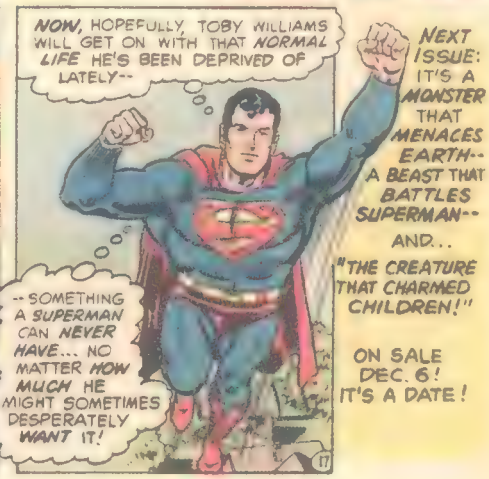

AND SOON-- AFTER SHIELA ABALON HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE, HER PRANA-POWER DRAINED AND DRY...
...AND ACCORDING TO THE POLICE RECORD HER REAL NAME IS SHIRLEY ADAMS AND SHE'D SPENT YEARS USING HER HYPNOTIC TALENTS FOR PETTY CRIMES, BUT WHEN SHE MET YOU, TOBY SHE FIGURED SHE'D FOUND HER TICKET TO THE BIG TIME!

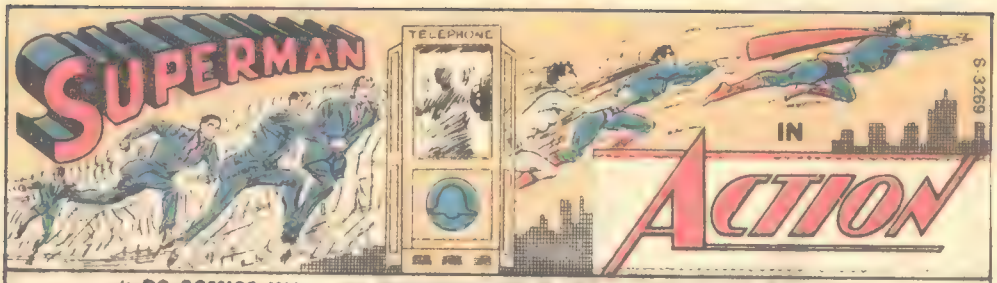

AND NOW-- YOU'RE STILL POSITIVE YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS?
THAT'S MY CHOICE, SUPERMAN! THIS WHOLE ROTTEN EXPERIENCE HAS ONLY MADE ME MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER!


ALL RIGHT, THEN-- I WANT YOU TO KEEP YOUR EYES FOCUSED ON THIS ASH TRAY AS I START SPINNING IT AT SUPER-SPEED!
MAKE YOUR MIND A BLANK...


YOU WILL FORGET PRANA-POWER... FORGET SHIELA... FORGET... FORGET...


INTENSE MOMENTS LATER, AFTER THE ACTION ACE HAS COMPLETED HIS SUPER-HYPNOSIS TREATMENT..
TOBY WILL NOT ONLY BE TOTALLY UNAWARE OF HIS PRANA-POWER FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, HE'LL HAVE NO RECOLLECTION AT ALL OF SHIELA ABALON!
WHEN HE WAKES UP, HE WON'T EVEN REMEMBER I WAS HERE!


NOW, HOPEFULLY, TOBY WILLIAMS WILL GET ON WITH THAT NORMAL LIFE HE'S BEEN DEPRIVED OF LATELY--
--SOMETHING A SUPERMAN CAN NEVER HAVE... NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE MIGHT SOMETIMES DESPERATELY WANT IT!
NEXT ISSUE: IT'S A MONSTER THAT MENACES EARTH-- A BEAST THAT BATTLES SUPERMAN-- AND... "THE CREATURE THAT CHARMED CHILDREN!"
ON SALE DEC. 6! IT'S A DATE!
17



Dear Editor:

ACTION #499 ("As the World Turns...for the Last Time") is just full of irony. Finally, Lana has found someone as strong and charismatic as her beloved *Supes*, someone who could truly make her forget *Superman*. But it was too good to last! First, it turns out he isn't at all ordinary; second, he isn't even a native of this planet. He is a superhero, in every sense of the word. So Lana has fallen in love with another *Superman*. Ah, but there is a crucial difference. This one reciprocates her love. It looked for a while like Lana was set for life finally.

Naturally, the inevitable happened. Vartox must sacrifice his own personal desires for the service of some other planet. Could it have ended any differently? I doubt it. He is a kindred spirit of *Superman*, down to sharing his altruistic motivations. Had he chosen any other course, I would have been seriously disappointed. Vartox is too good a person to let his own selfishness direct his life.

I find it interesting that Lana doesn't find *Superman's* last question indiscreet. Despite what has happened to both, they *have known* each other many years. And the longstanding intimacy is still there. He is as close to a best friend as she will ever get. Maybe Lana has matured significantly. Even her answer is realistic: "—right now, even *I'm* not sure what it is."

I think she's come to terms with herself, what she is, what she wants out of life. Had she offhandedly said, "Of course I'll wait for Vartox. Forever," it wouldn't have rung true. No one can make such an important decision on the spur of the moment. Yet, in the past, she has done just that. Someone special out there cares about her. That has to make Lana feel she's pretty special, too.

But enough of Lana! What a sense of *déjà vu*! The entire situation between Vartox and *Superman* reminded me of Jor-El's fight against the Science Council, even before he brought in the psychodrama. Here we have Vartox in the role of frustrated prophet and *Superman* the disbeliever. Quite a parallel.

Vartox was stunned by the violence of *Superman's* reaction, and he put it down to having the awful horror of the event hit him at once. But I imagine it was more than that. Remember, too, *Supes* was recently *forced* by Brainiac to watch *helplessly* the destruction of Krypton a second time. With the rage is probably a misplaced sense of guilt. That *he* was one of the few saved. And he wonders from time to time if he's worthy of having survived.

That to me epitomizes why Kal is so fiercely protective of Earth. It represents a sacred trust between him and his father—to use his powers wisely to ensure that tragedy will never happen to his adopted planet, even if he must sacrifice his life to prevent it. Could he do any *less* than his *father* did for *him*? That is undoubtedly one source of his altruism. Another is his foster father's influence, endowing him with the moral values he defends today.

I would certainly like to see Vartox return some time. Meanwhile, I'll be watching Lana very closely—for more signs she's joined the human race.

Tamsyn O'Flynn
29 Fourth Ave.
Massapequa Park, NY 11762

Imagine—psychological analyses of three characters in one letter! You could be the comics' answer to Ann Landers or Dear Abby!—ENB

• • • • •

Dear Julie:

Of late, Cary Bates has been improving in *ACTION*. But #499 must be considered a relapse to his early clumsiness. One of the poorest stories Cary has given us in quite some time.

I never cared much for Vartox. I cared for him even less in this hokey story about an "unknown space-element" that causes oxygen atoms to blow up—and the element to counter its effect just happens to be fragments of Vartox's home planet. Sure. Coincidence is allowable in comics, but only if you have a good story to go with it.

Oh, there was a bit of irony in *Superman's* disbelief in Earth's coming doom, and in Lana's loving yet another super-hero, but these two redeeming features did not redeem enough.

Perhaps the silliest point was when Vartox blew his identity to Lana, and told her he was an alien super-hero who had survived the destruction of his world...and she just said "What a shame!" There should have been at least one panel in which she said, "That's a pretty wild story—could you *prove*—" and Vartox replies by doing a super-stunt. Give Lana some credit for a *little* intelligence, please.

Al Schroeder III
3608 Richland Ave.
Nashville, TN 37206

Maybe she's sharper than you realize. She may have met so many aliens—both real and phony—that she can tell whether the guy's a fake without asking for proof.—ENB

• • • • •

Dear Editor:

Now that I've read the conclusion of the story begun in #498, I'm ready to comment. Using psychological and romantic undertones, what might have been a run-of-the-mill "save the Earth" story was turned into a fine story. I liked Vartox's personality—and his mustache; his uniform I wasn't so hot on, but it may have been a big thing on his home planet.

I knew there was something about the last page in #499 that bothered me. What it was, I finally figured out, was *Superman* standing there *looking* at Vartox and Lana saying good-bye. If I were in Lana's position, it would have made me feel funny. Sort of like kissing a high-school sweetheart on your front doorstep and looking up to see your father watching through the window. He should've been politely looking out at the view; at least then I could have imagined him tuning out his hearing from their good-bye scene. My main hero, meaning *Superman*, does not have to be perfect, but I do want him to be polite and not eavesdrop on such scenes, no matter how well he knows the people involved.

Well, if it took me till the last page to find something I didn't like (my dislike of Vartox's costume was very minute), it must have been a good story!

Barbara Long
Route 3, Box 161
Blue Springs, MS 38828

But if **Superman** *hadn't listened, who would have asked Lana the question in the next-to-the-last panel?—E. Nelson Bridwell*

EXTRA DAILY PLANET™ EXTRA

VOLUME 79 ISSUE 47 WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19, 1979 BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR ANTHONY TOLLIN: PRODUCTION

DC CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

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(Christmas)—In past years, *DC* has released special Christmas editions which have proven quite popular with our readers. Now, *DC* brings you an all-new *SUPER-STAR HOLIDAY SPECIAL* featuring our most popular characters.

Batman has his "shopping" cut out for him in "Wanted: Santa Claus—Dead or Alive" by Denny O'Neil, Frank Miller and Steve Mitchell. *Superboy* and the *Legion* track down the Christmas star in "Star Light, Star Bright...Farthest Star I See Tonight" by Paul Levitz, Jose Luis Garcia Lopez and Dick Giordano. *Jonah Hex* rides through the old west in "The Fawn and the Star", a Michael Fleisher/Dick Ayers/Romeo Tanghal collaboration. Then Ayers and Tanghal illustrate Robert Kanigher's Christmas tale for *Sgt. Rock*, "The Longest Night". And rounding out the issue, all of our mystery book hosts get together at "The House of Mystery" thanks to Bob Rozakis, Tanghal and Dan Adkins.

It's a special that you won't want to miss to brighten your holiday season. Pick up our *SUPER-STAR HOLIDAY SPECIAL* when it goes on sale the week of December 3rd.

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(North Pole)—it's time for another collection of stories of the world's most famous reindeer as *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* shines his nose in *BEST OF DC DIGEST* #4.

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DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF DECEMBER 3rd

JONAH HEX #34—A gang of robbers kills Santa Claus in a special Christmas story by Michael Fleisher and Dan Spiegle.

ALL-OUT WAR #4—The *Viking Commando* faces "Execution on Demand" by Robert Kanigher and George Evans; *Black Eagle* becomes "The Sixty-Second Vet" by Kanigher, Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal; *Force Three* learns "Death Comes in Threes" by Kanigher and Jerry Grandenetti; and you'll travel "The Road to Sunchon" with Archie Goodwin and Ernie Patricio; and fight in "The One-Minute War" with David Allikas and Rene H. Samson.

THE FLASH #283—Find out who really killed Iris Allen in "Flashback" by Cary Bates, Don Heck and Frank Chiaramonte.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #176—The world is doomed if the *JLA* can't shut down "The Dream Factories of Dr. Destiny" by Gerry Conway, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin.

SUPERMAN #345—What is the cause of the day "When Time Ran Backwards" by Gerry Conway, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte?

SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE #22—George Kashdan and Rubeny sing "See How They Die"; "The Wheel of Karma" is spun by Bill Kelley; and Dave Manak spooks us with "Haunted Humor".

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: Where could I find the origin of the *Teen Titans*?—Michael Brown. *A*: It appeared in *TEEN TITANS* #53, the last issue of the magazine.

Q: How much is *SECRET SIX* #7 worth?—Rich Troxell. *A*: 30¢ in good condition.

Q: Who do you think would win in a battle if *Green Lantern* didn't have his ring and *Flash* didn't have his speed?—John Koenigsberg. *A*: *GL*

Q: Will *Bouncing Boy* ever rejoin the *Legion*?—Frank Lucci. *A*: It doesn't look like it, especially after the recent story which had *BB* and his wife *Duo Damsel* settling on a far-off planet.

Q: How could kryptonite have reached Earth so long ago if the light from the planet's destruction just reached here?—Lorne Lecker and Jeffrey S. Krasnick. *A*: The kryptonite came to Earth through the same space warp that brought baby Kal-El here.

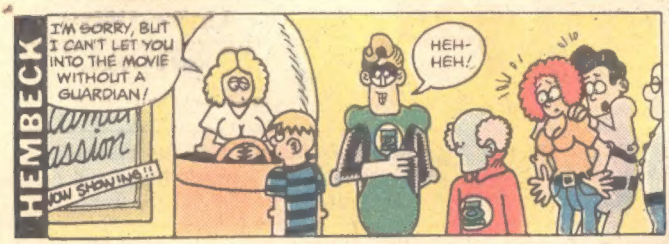
Q: Was *Streaky the Supercat* vulnerable to kryptonite?—John Smith. *A*: No.

Q: Will *Robin* be teaming up with *Batman* after Dick Grayson graduates from college?—Ray Negron. *A*: Probably, but considering how long it took Dick to get out of high school, I wouldn't plan on his college graduation for a long time.

Q: What person has had the most letters published by *DC* and how many of them were there?—The Mad Maple. *A*: Back in the days when I was out there writing letters, I had 135 printed, which was the record at the time. Whether someone has surpassed this (and someone probably has) I cannot say. Any readers out there to claim the title?

Q: Is *Sgt. Rock* married?—Chris Khalaf. *A*: Not that we know of.

Q: Was there a *CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN* novel published?—Brett Ziegler. *A*: Yes, it was written by Ron Goulart and published by Dell in 1977.



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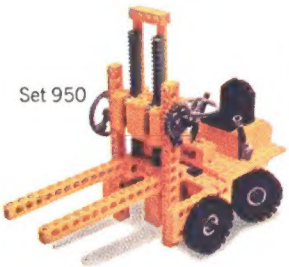

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